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West Virginia Library Association

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# West Virginia Libraries 1955 Vol.8 No.4

Robert Munn

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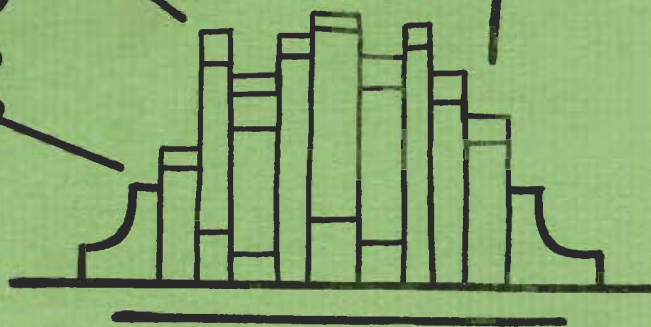
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West



Virginia  
Libraries



# WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

Volume 8  
Number 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

December  
1955

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## WEST VIRGINIA'S SECOND REGIONAL LIBRARY

By

KEN BROWN, REGIONAL CONSULTANT  
WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY COMMISSION

On the evening of April 21, 1954 around seventy people attended a public meeting at the county court house in Buckhannon. They had come, at the request of a local commercial association, to see what could be done about bringing rural library service to central West Virginia.

Many were strangers to each other. The Executive Secretary of the Library Commission and a consultant had been invited to discuss possible Commission aid. Two library board members from the Alpha Regional library had been asked to describe the service in their region. And among the audience were representatives from several counties.

The meeting settled few questions but it was important, for it introduced the problem of organizing a regional library and resulted in the appointment by the group of a Regional Steering Committee to begin planning a project.

Contradictory as this statement may seem, what strikes me now as the most significant feature of the venture that followed was the exceeding scarcity of the unusual. Great care was taken in the planning and in the execution. An effort was made to prepare for every emergency that might likely occur. But by and large nothing particularly surprising happened between the beginning and last August, when the County Courts of Harrison and Upshur made the two-county region a fiscal reality. This relatively calm progression should have, it seems to me, a considerable meaning for all of us who want to see more library service for our state.

A step-by-step report would probably have limited value and not a great deal of interest for most librarians. Still, certain facts seem worth mentioning for their own sake or for their significance for future organizational efforts. This account will emphasize those facts at the cost of being fragmentary.

Each new region lays groundwork in learning for the next. The Library Commission's experience with the Alpha Regional Library and the Monroe County Library enabled us to outline a recommended program with considerable assurance and helped make it possible to anticipate most of the problems that have confronted us thus far. On the other hand, familiar patterns had unfamiliar variations, and a few were entirely new.

There were interesting variations. One was the early interest shown by the Upper Monongahela Valley Association, which created the stimulus leading to the meeting mentioned earlier. Several local community organizations gave important support to the project from its conceptual period on, and a few were working on the idea even before that. The UMVA, however, introduced a new voice--that of the regional development group, with its alert and wide-ranging desire to promote benefits for the residents of its membership area.

The introductory effort in this region differed from that in the Alpha region in one very critical respect. The Alpha Regional Library was developed as a demonstration, with the Library Commission furnishing practically all the support during the demon-



stration period. Because of a budget deficiency the Commission was forced to limit its promise of assistance to the present region to bookstock, centralized technical processes services, the loan of a bookmobile, the services of a consultant, special loan facilities, and a few miscellaneous items. This assistance was of course of great value, but it was much less than the earlier region received. While it cannot be said that the Committee here faced greater problems (there were too many variables to permit such a concise comparison), to some they seemed to be taking a pretty long shot at success.

The Library Commission long ago adopted certain policies that it learned are a necessary accompaniment of any assistance to a specific area. Among the most fundamental and undeviating are those concerning local attitudes. Any rural sociologist can give abundant examples of the expert who has gone into a community and campaigned eloquently for a program, only to come out of it dismayed and perplexed by failure. Such failures can usually be traced to a naivete, which overlooks the fact that these sincere but unilateral crusades by-pass obvious democratic principles.

The Library Commission must recognize the parallel in its policies. In its relationship with individual counties it can serve but not coerce, advise and assist but not direct, interpret but not campaign. It can offer material aid, stimulation, and professional leadership; but where that ends and the actual drive to obtain library service begins, the matter inevitably becomes one between the people and their county officers.

Recognition of these facts has been reflected in the Commission's attitude during every phase of the present program. Commission representatives attended the first meeting and

subsequent meetings in this region only at the invitation of local citizens. The Commission consultant came into the region to work with the Regional Steering Committee by their invitation. His report to the Committee, based on a lengthy survey, stated Commission requirements for receiving assistance and included many suggestions and recommendations but no injunctions or demands. And although he conferred regularly with the Committee and gave some physical assistance to their efforts, he did no campaigning and approached County Courts only if the Court requested him to.

The survey mentioned in the preceding paragraph was an interesting elaboration on previous Commission practice. A large amount of the study and planning required in earlier programs occupied an integral place in the organizational period. Here, however, the immediate need to provide the Committee with concrete recommendations for a program to offer to the County Courts made an exhaustive survey the essential first step.

The survey was thorough. Its purpose was to get a reasonable amount of information on every aspect of community life that might perceptibly affect the chances of developing a successful rural library service and to gather detailed data upon which to base a recommended program. This included an analysis of such factors as population distribution, educational level, existing library service, recreational resources, community organizations, transportation and communication facilities, trading patterns, living conditions, economic support, and county finances. Information was collected from printed materials, ranging from the U.S. Census to local bus schedules, and from more than one hundred personal interviews. To get a first-hand knowledge of the communities, countryside, and road conditions, the consultant traveled about

1,500 miles on systematic tours into every neighborhood. The information then was organized and used to support recommendations for a beginning rural library system, tailored to the requirements of the region.

When an agency follows a policy of assistance but not interference with local affairs, the effectiveness of any aid it can give naturally depends upon the initiative of the area concerned. And regardless of the collective interest shown, real initiative will probably not materialize without definite, recognized leadership.

Most of us realize the danger in allowing library service to become associated exclusively with any one person or group, which after all is not leadership. Avoiding this particular pitfall and performing instead the essential functions of coordination, interpretation, and stimulation was, to me, one of the more remarkable achievements of the Regional Steering Committee. The Committee provided a fairly wide circle for interpreting the program and channeling the efforts of interested individuals and groups, while the chairman performed a master-

ful job in the indispensable role of a central coordinator. Yet because of their insight into the situation and association with a variety of other community activities, the effort never became popularly identified as anyone's pet project.

The Harrison-Upshur experience should be wonderfully encouraging to all those who believe--and reassuring to those who doubt--that every section of our state can have library service for its people. Certainly a first appropriation does not guarantee ultimate success. But consider the excellent opportunity to sell library service in this new region, add to that the precedent set by the five counties of the Alpha Regional Library, add to that the gathering movement toward the equalization of assessments, and to these add the tremendous boost that would result from the likely passage of the Library Services Bill. Consider the progress of the past few years and the probabilities of the future--and there is reason to believe that with planning, faith, and reasonably good fortune, every county in West Virginia can have library service within the next ten or fifteen years.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### NEW LIBRARIAN AT TECH

Dr. John B. McCraw has been appointed Librarian at West Virginia Institute of Technology. Dr. McCraw received his library degree at Louisiana State University and the Ph.D in history and political science from the University of Texas. The West Virginia Library Association welcomes Dr. McCraw and hopes that he will take a most active role in the work of the Association.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Library Association activity for the 1955-1956 year got underway at the Executive Board session which was held in Parkersburg on November 11. All members of the Board were in attendance. It is particularly gratifying to me to have such an able group with which to work. This is my fourth year on the Executive Board but each year there is a change in personnel, which factor is good for the continuing vigor of the Association.

First meetings must necessarily be devoted to organizing activities and planning the year's work. As some of you already know the Board did make some committee assignments, and, in most cases, the objectives we hoped the Committee would accomplish this year were often specifically stated. The day, as usual, had too few hours to permit accomplishment of everything on the agenda.

I have already heard from the Chairman of the Extension Committee, Mr. Omar Bacon. This Committee took as its prime assignment the task of aiding the Library Commission to obtain from the 1956 Legislature a budget which will enable the Commission to receive the maximum of Federal funds if the Library Services Bill is passed in the next session of Congress.

The Extension Committee held a meeting in Charleston on December 2 to plan their program. I know each member of the Association will aid this Committee if called on to do so. The problem is to convince each Legislator that it is to his constituents' advantage and well-being for the Commission to receive the slight budget increase needed to meet the requirement on which distribution of Federal funds will be

based. Anyone of you are in an excellent position to take effective action by merely contacting your local State Representative to the Legislature.

In the closing moments of the Annual Meeting the new Executive Board met momentarily to care for some unfinished business. A grant of \$200 was made to Mr. Delf Norona. The money is to be used for publication of his "Checklist of West Virginia Imprints, 1791-1863." In return for the grant Mr. Norona will give the Association credit as publisher of the bibliography. In addition the Association will receive 200 copies which may be sold. Mr. Charles Shetler of the West Virginia Collection at the University Library is editing the publication. A recent letter from Mr. Norona reveals the work is progressing and publication may be expected before the end of 1956.

Association activities this year will continue to accent the thought "More books and better libraries for West Virginia." A year or two ago it was apparent the Association needed re-vitalizing; a long range program aimed at accomplishing the above quoted goal was tentatively formulated. Committees appointed received set objectives to be accomplished. Thus stimulated the Association is taking a more dynamic role in promotion of library service.

Among the many achievements of the past year may be mentioned: 1) West Virginia Libraries, which presented articles of professional value; 2) Publications and Indexing Committee, which will soon complete the index to

(Continued on page 7)

## A RETIRING PRESIDENT LOOKS BACK

By

OMAR A. BACON, RETIRING PRESIDENT  
WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

It seems proper for a retiring president to glance back and evaluate his efforts while in office. It is his responsibility too, to help create an atmosphere in which others will feel free to evaluate and criticize the closing year. Only by this introspection and stock-taking can the organization profit by its failure and successes.

As your new president in October 1954, I, with the help of the Executive Board and others, set up some goals at which to point our efforts during the year. Some of these were as follows:

1. To develop a sense of solidarity in our profession in West Virginia.
2. To work for greater public information and interest in the need for Library extension.
3. To seek a unified library association.
4. To explore needs for new library legislation.
5. To encourage publication of bibliographic aids.
6. To work for wider participation in the business of the Association.
7. To encourage recruitment into the library profession.
8. Plan a convention which included wide participation of the membership.
9. Encourage the cooperation of libraries among themselves.

The program of the year to some extent sought to implement these goals. It was felt that the best approach to the needs of the West Virginia Library profession and library extension and growth was through wide participation of Association members in programs seeking solution to the library problems. As a result, many special committees were established to work on problems before the Association -- school library affiliation, library extension, exhibits, resolutions, awards, W. Va. history, and scholarship. Older committees were continued and their missions sharpened. It was felt too that active participation of the Executive Board and Committee chairmen in decisions would be advantageous. These Committee Chairmen were frequently invited to sit as active members at Board meetings.

Continuing the policy of membership participation, plans for the annual Conference were based as much as possible on suggestions arising from a canvass of membership. The request for a W. Va. official and a general speech on librarianship were the two top items. As conference dates approached the Executive Board and the Conference Chairman continued effectively in making decisions on the Conference.

In looking back at the work of the year, I find a mixture of success and failure. I'm not sure how much my observations are colored by over proximity or wishful thinking. It was my impression that our hope to develop a growing sense of professional morale made progress. It received a mighty impetus at the convention in Bethany



and continued, at least, in the members of the Executive Board and Committee members with whom I worked. The Executive Board did a splendid job throughout the year. The actual work accomplished by committees varied from committee to committee. Actual gains include a scholarship program, a publication program, a complete revision of the Constitution and made ready for next year's consideration, a study of library legislation, a broader understanding between the Association and the Library Commission, and significant progress on a working affiliation of the School Librarians Section of WVEA and the WVLA.

The unfinished business in terms of the goals proposed at the year's beginning is stupendous. The problems of wider public information and support have not been significantly changed. Library contact with the southern half of our state is tenuous and with special libraries hardly existent. Recruitment has no organized program. Our scholarship program was tailored to fit the educational needs of currently working librarians, and thus is not a weapon for adding new blood to our profession. The goal of

wide participation of membership was only partially achieved. Our last goal, cooperation in its many forms, was tackled at the discussion level but as yet has born little reported fruit.

The conference at Fairmont was of ambivalent success. It was ably handled by the local personnel. Mr. Gilbert Fites and Mrs. Conaway and staffs are to be congratulated for their thorough organization. The exhibitors morale was high and augurs well for their participation next year. The speakers may be judged by your personal taste. To me they presented high quality addresses in an able manner. Dr. Shores is to be commended for the generous way he made available his time to the Convention. A reasonable amount of business was transacted during the meetings and an abundance of activities reported.

As retiring president, I wish to thank the many WVLA members for their great efforts during the year. And to the officers of this year I pledge my allegiance and urge you to do the same. The year as president confirmed my conviction that there is ample ability in the West Virginia Library Association to solve the problems before it.

\* \* \* \*

From The President's Desk (Cont. from page 5)

one State magazine; 3) School Library Affiliation Committee, which paved the way for integrating the W.V.E.A. School Library Section with the Association; 4) State Legislation Committee, which studied the State law in respect to financing local libraries; 5) Constitution Committee, which formulated a proposed constitution to meet the needs of the changing program of the Association; 6) Awards Committee, which selected for recognition deserving people; 7) Scholarship Committee, which formulated standards for scholarship grants and started a scholarship fund; 8) Extension Committee, which studied and evaluated the Library Commission

extension program. Other committees made equal accomplishments. This year will see final completion of some of these activities and further achievement in other cases. Association members may well take pride in their organization.

West Virginia librarians are an able, hard-working group, who are devoted to their profession. My years in the Association have been fruitful and interesting. I am proud to be the President of such an organization.

Floyd W. Miller, President  
W. Va. Library Association

# A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear X:

We returned from the Fairmont library conference with extremely mixed, as the saying goes, feelings. The headquarters hotel was attractive; registration was smoothly and efficiently organized--a long table in the large foyer of what I suppose is called the ballroom, and around the walls of the foyer were the exhibitors' tables, with their bright books, examples of bindings, equipment, and gadgets and samples; and the librarians themselves were a handsome and spirited gathering. The meeting was, as usual, a sort of miniature county fair of the intellectuals, with reports on this and that accomplishment or activity displayed in place of the afghans and canned peaches, as it were. The Local Committee had worked hard, and effectively on the whole: one's feelings remain mixed, though, when one wonders why, in the inevitable summing up, the meeting--as most of the meetings of past years--left so much to be desired.

Was it the ballroom, where most of the meetings and the banquet (sic) were held? We were fairly lost in it--the lofty height of the ceiling dissipated the speakers' words almost instantly, so that listeners even in the first rows of the audience had to strain to catch what was being said, and as if that was not bad enough, an obviously superannuated floor fan threshed a drowning accompaniment all day Friday. The room was an invincible enemy, even of Omar Bacon's wit and poise.... After eating, the librarians complained of the food, both at the luncheons and the banquet--the latter was especially and noticeably poor, served with no grace or style on tables conspicuous for their lack of any decoration whatever beneath glaring lights. Were there no flowers that day in Fairmont, no ferns or leaves or candles? It was indeed, if I may say so without seeming carping, a spare repast in most respects: we went in to dine, one might say, and to hear words of wisdom, and we rose up from the flowerless tables unrefreshed and none oh none the wiser for it all.... One felt a particular disappointment at the evening's barrenness because of the presence of the award winners from Charleston, Miss Goodall and Mr. Ray, two rare and distinguished individuals. Perhaps the dancing afterwards was at least rewarding; I heard a mechanical blaring as I left.

(cont. on next page)



There was some little confusion on Saturday, although the chief morning speaker, Miss Ruth Tarbox, was excellent. Meeting times were shifted, with announcements of the shiftings lost in the consuming ceiling; there seemed to be some uncertainty about what rooms the College Library Section and the Public Library Section were meeting in. The uncertainty extended, later, to other matters, such as what the sections were meeting for, what their deliberations were to be about, etc.--and when I inquired, some days afterward, about two reports scheduled for the final general session, I was told that they had not been presented: a precipitate dissolving was mentioned.

When one thinks of the hundreds of miles of travel represented by the librarians' attendance at the annual meeting, the preparations, the arrangements and--yes, the expense--it seems clear that the Executive Board and the Local Committee should spare no efforts in arranging an event of the highest quality. Next year's meeting will be the 42nd--it is high time we demonstrate that we have learned something about these annual conventions. If we've learned that "programs aren't really important--you really get more out of seeing and talking to people...." then we should keep the meetings to a minimum and let people see and talk to each other without tiresome distractions. If programs are important, let us arrange by all means to have them that way. Let the banquets at least partially deserve the term, and have a touch of elegance, and let the speaker be of an outside world--a writer, a critic, a publisher, an editor, someone who will show us some glimpses of the moon: and let him know beforehand that if he even suggests that librarians (we) are the final hope of democracy this side of the Iron Curtain his expenses will certainly not be paid. For the sake of our guests--those not-final hopes--let this be done. Finally, let the business affairs be concentrated neatly, not strung out interminably, popping up here and there, unheralded; let them be arranged and presented and voted on at a single session.

After all, we're grown up now, as an Association. Why should we act fumbling and awkward and unbearably juvenile? The annual convention should have style and assurance, and these can be achieved by a year or nine months of hard careful work by the Executive Board and the Local Committee and all of us, and that is not too much to ask for the librarians of West Virginia. I think they deserve the best.

C. E. B.

## NEWS FROM THE FIELD

BUCKHANNON

Mrs. Rachel Barlow, Buckhannon librarian, in cooperation with the local AAUW chapter, presented a book fair at the library on December 3rd and 4th.

HARDY COUNTY

Hardy County Library recently opened three branches. Those at Bergton and Rock Oak are sponsored by Farm Women's Clubs. The one at Wardensville is sponsored jointly by the Farm Women's Club, PTA and Lions Club. Mrs. Clifton Jenkins is librarian at Wardensville. Each of these branches has its own permanent book collection from the Hardy County Library in Moorefield and gets books on loan from the County Library and from Commission headquarters. Mrs. Carl B. Allen is the County Librarian.

HUNTINGTON

Bookweek was observed in the Downtown Library with exhibits from five of the local book stores. The theme was on building a home library. The Library is helping to increase book sales in the community.

The Library, in cooperation with the new Huntington Hospital and the Hospital Auxiliary will inaugurate daily book service to patients.

Marshall College and the Huntington Public Library have developed a working agreement on almost automatic inter-library loans. The College loans books to Public Library patrons after clearing on their status.

Mrs. G. A. Schwartz resigned as Head of Circulation and returned to teaching. Mrs. Viola Dodge, circulation assistant, replaces her as head

of the department. Helen Jarvis joined the staff to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Jeannette Vinton.

OHIO COUNTY

Annual reports from all departments of the Library show interesting and gratifying figures. Many groups (other than the twenty-three schools) received book deposits. Among these were Oglebay Day Camp, Laughlin Chapel, Ohio County Detention Home, and the Crippled Children's Association. The Film Department reported an increase over last year in the number of shows given, borrowers and viewers. This marks the fifth year for the department. The total number of viewers has reached 274,610.

The Children's Department showed an eight percent increase in circulation over last year. Juvenile books made up fifty-four percent of the total book circulation.

Editor's Note: The Librarian and her staff are to be congratulated on the appearance of the Report of the Ohio County Public Library for 1954-55. Both the format and the contents merit high praise.

WHEELING COLLEGE

Miss Eileen R. Carpino of Martins Ferry, Ohio has been named Assistant Librarian of Wheeling College. Miss Carpino holds the B.S.L.S. from the Catholic University of America. She is to assist Miss Josephine Savaro, a former member of the library science faculty at the Catholic University.

The new college library opened with over 10,000 volumes on the shelves. The book stock had been cataloged during the preceding year.



## WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## TREASURER'S REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 1954-SEPTEMBER 30, 1955

Balance on hand October, 1954 \$ 1139.14

RECEIPTS

Transfer, Net. Bank Commerce, Charleston	\$ 11.50	
Dues (Individual-152)	304.00	
Dues (Institutional-28)	140.00	
Exhibitor's fee	120.00	
Receipts - Bethany Convention	<u>338.73</u>	\$ 914.23
Total		\$ 2053.37

DISBURSEMENTS

"West Va. Libraries"	\$ 91.69	
Membership cards	7.50	
Stationery, postage, express	<u>44.75</u>	\$ 143.94

BETHANY CONVENTION

Meals	\$ 537.75	
Speakers, Transportation, etc.	145.61	
Medals	<u>53.95</u>	\$ 737.31

EXECUTIVE BOARD, EXPENSES

Chancellor Hotel-Meals	\$ 52.23	
Telephone calls	9.14	
Omar Bacon	12.60	
E. Hugh Behymer	14.56	
Nancy Matthews	4.79	
Juliette Bryson	<u>3.58</u>	\$ 96.90
Frederic G. Melcher Scholarship Fund		<u>25.00</u>

Total \$ 1003.15

Balance - Sept. 30, 1955 \$ 1050.22  
Less, two outstanding checks 34.01  
\$ 1016.21

LOCATION OF FUNDS

Dollar Savings & Trust Co. Wheeling, W. Va.

Examined and found correct:

Gene Morgan, Chairman  
Auditing Committee

Prepared by

Nancy Matthews  
Treasurer

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS

The citations which appear on the following pages were presented at the October 7th Banquet Meeting of the West Virginia Library Association in Fairmont. The citations for Miss Goodall and Mr. Ray were read by Charles E. Butler. That for Mrs. Conway was presented by Gilbert Fites.

WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION RECOGNITION AWARDS



MRS. WAITMAN H. CONAWAY

It is particularly appropriate that Mrs. Waitman H. Conaway should receive one of the three recognition awards given by this Association this fall, for this year represents her twenty-fifth year of service to the citizens of Marion County. Of these years twenty three have been spent as Head Librarian.

If library administration can be properly defined as assured financial support, centralized headquarters, and recognized administration, it has been Mrs. Conaway's lot to provide all three for Marion County. At the outset of her service as head librarian she clarified the duties and responsibilities of the librarian toward her board. In 1942 when the government made available the building in which the library is presently housed, it was her determined relentless program that mobilized civic participation, aroused an enthusiastic press, and made it possible for Mrs. Conaway to take the library from inadequate quarters to its present location. This has made possible a consistent program of library expansion and development.

The cancellation of the tax limitation law in 1932 forced a re-appraisal of the source of income for the library. Mrs. Conaway had the library organized under all three sources permitted by the state for support. The wisdom of this move has been adequately demonstrated across the years when one source or another has been unable to give the library the allotment originally promised.

Along with her interest in library progress, Mrs. Conaway has maintained a strong interest in other community, state, and national activities. For years she has been secretary of the Marion County Historical Society. She was Vice-President General of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and has also been state Vice-President of the National Society of Colonial Dames.

Her professional life seems to refute Yeats statement that no person completes "a finish worthy of the start." To still be living and thinking on the horizon of the library needs of Marion County can lead only to the question, "How better could one give a life time?".

CECILE R. GOODALL

Cecile R. Goodall, native of Kanawha County, educator, student, historian, writer and editor.

Our State's most distinguished magazine, the quarterly West Virginia History, made its first appearance in 1939, and since the issue of July 1941, Number 4 of Volume 2, the name of Cecile R. Goodall has appeared on the title page as Editor. West Virginia History is a periodical to which all West Virginians--not alone all librarians--may point with pride and assurance. Published by the Department of Archives and History, it has never in any sense been sectional or partisan, and its unsensational influence has been wide and beneficial. Its excellence has not come about by accident or luck, but rather by editorship of a high order, an editorship which blends imagination and practicality, daring and discretion, reflection and action. The libraries whose shelves bear its lengthening file of volumes are the richer and the better thereby, and its readers--may their tribe increase--are the richer for its illumination of West Virginia's past, the past upon which the future is forever founded. To her position as Editor of West Virginia History Miss Goodall has brought the breadth of vision gained through study at the Universities of West Virginia, Colorado, Cambridge and Oxford, through active participation in the accomplishments of many organizations, and through her years as a teacher in Charleston High School. Well-deserved honors have come to her; to those many honors the West Virginia Library Association takes great pleasure in adding its award for distinguished achievement in the promotion of libraries in West Virginia.



JOHN V. RAY

John V. Ray, native of Kanawha County, Rhodes Scholar, attorney, a member of the Board of Directors of the Kanawha County Public Library in Charleston since April 4, 1929, and since December 4, 1936, Chairman of the Board.

During the twenty-six years of his connection with the State's largest public library, Mr. Ray has been an active and spirited force behind the Library's achievements. In a state in which adequate library service has largely remained a dream somehow impossible of realization, a distant goal that has remained in the distance, the Kanawha County Public Library has moved closest toward the goal. It has advanced steadily during the past quarter century, in the proper ways and in the proper directions of good library service, and today, as in the past, its excellence signalizes for all the cities and the towns and the counties of West Virginia the ways and the directions that can lessen the distance between the inadequate present and the goal, between the actuality and the dream. Among those public-spirited citizens charged as library board members with the responsibilities of achieving and maintaining and fostering good library services, John Ray and his unflagging leadership must be accorded a high place. For many years the Kanawha County Public Library has led the public libraries of the state in book stock, rate of acquisition, quality of acquisition, circulation, extension and other services. During Mr. Ray's tenure as Chairman the book collection has more than quadrupled in size, the budget is five times its original figure, almost four times as many borrowers use the library's books, recordings, pictures, reference services, and the annual circulation has reached a figure of well over half a million. Mr. Ray would protest that it has not been he but the librarians who have been responsible for all of this, but the librarians have been many and have come and gone: behind them has been the dedicated and inconspicuous Chairman of their Board, representing his library interests with dignity, perseverance, strength and understanding.

The West Virginia Library Association has great pleasure and deep pride in presenting to John V. Ray its award for distinguished achievement in the promotion of library service in West Virginia